

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application. By this amendment, claims 1-13, and 15 have been amended and claims 16-20 have been added. No new matter has been added. An early and favorable action is hereby earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: October 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By Neil P. Ferraro

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